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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 7303**
Minoru SUEZAKI et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2006_0007A
Serial No. 10/563,979 : Group Art Unit 2871
Filed April 11, 2006 : Examiner **Not Yet Assigned**

COLUMN SPACER, LIQUID CRYSTAL
DISPLAY ELEMENT AND CURABLE RESIN
COMPOSITION FOR COLUMN SPACER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- ☒ each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication;
- ☐ each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/_____; and/or
- ☐ each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No. _____.

1a. ☒ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, **or**

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

(1) ☐ the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**

(2) ☐ the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

- a. ☐ that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- b. ☐ that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. ☐ Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
- a. ☐ a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. ☐ a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. ☐ the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - d. ☐ the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. ☐ the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. ☒ Two third party observations filed in the counterpart Japanese application citing one or more of the references are enclosed.

Also enclosed is an English translation of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability.

6. ☐ Statement Under 37 CFR 1.704(d)

Each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign Patent Office in a counterpart application, and this communication was not received by any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Minoru SUEZAKI et al.

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December 8, 2006

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: December 8, 2006

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2006_0007ASERIAL NO.
10/563,979APPLICANT
Minoru SUEZAKI et al.FILING DATE
April 11, 2006GROUP
2871

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,399,604	3/1995	Sano et al.			Corresponds to AF
	AB	5,530,036	6/1996	Sano et al.			
	AC						
	AD						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AE	2003-316001	11/2003	JP			Abstract & Computer Translation
	AF	6-43643	2/1994	JP			Abstract
	AG	2002-357901	12/2002	JP			Abstract & Computer Translation
	AH	2005-258422	9/2005	JP			Abstract
	AI	6-59390	3/1994	JP			Abstract & Computer Translation
	AJ	5-112737	5/1993	JP			Abstract & Computer Translation
	AK	2006-56136	3/2006	JP			Abstract & Computer Translation
	AL	10-237116	9/1998	JP			Abstract & Computer Translation
	AM	1 715 373	10/2006	EP			Corresponds to AH

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AN	Third party observation on counterpart JP patent application no. 2005-263934 dated November 21, 2006.
	AO	Third party observation on counterpart JP patent application no. 2005-267339 dated November 21, 2006.
	AP	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.